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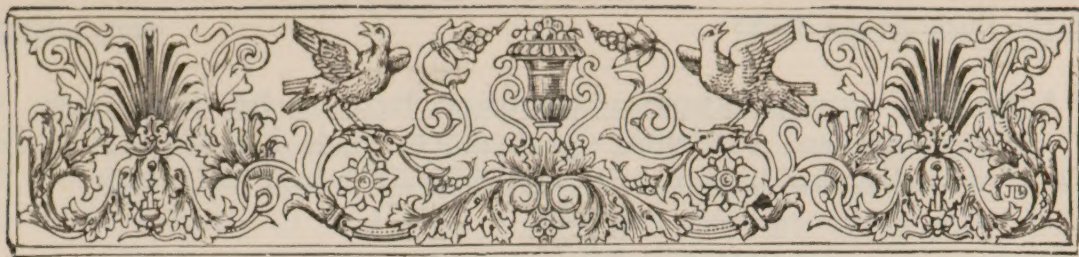
THE RADCLIFFE OBSERVATORY, OXFORD, owes its origin to the testamentary benefactions of John Radcliffe, M.D. (*d.* 1714), a man now principally remembered for his many endowments, but known in his own day as a fashionable and wealthy physician whose failure to attend Queen Anne on her death-bed drew upon him some disagreeable public notice. This benefactor, although he founded the Radcliffe Library (now a department of the Bodleian), was himself no profound reader, and once described his own medical library as consisting of "some phials, a skeleton and a herbal." During the incumbency of the first two observers, Thomas Hornsby (1773-1810) and Abram Robertson (1810-1826) the Observatory Library seems to have been of quite small dimensions. It is mainly to Stephen Peter Rigaud, Savilian Professor of Astronomy and Radcliffe Observer from 1827 to 1839, that the Library owes its present considerable importance as an early astronomical and scientific collection. Rigaud was a keen student whose bent led him rather to study his profession in the past than to exercise it in the present. "As an astronomer he was remarkable for his accurate knowledge of the literature and history of his subject. As a mathematical antiquary and bibliographer, he had no rival previous to De Morgan" (D.N.B.) His Essay on Newton's *Principia* is well known; and he published much of interest relating to Halley, Flamsteed and other early investigators. After his death his scientific library was purchased *en bloc* by the Radcliffe Trustees: the portion now remaining in their hands (together with a small legacy received about 1830 from the Rev. George Powell, Fellow of Balliol) accounts for almost all the earlier books catalogued for sale. Rigaud's books as a rule contain his signature and date of acquisition, thus:—

S. P. Rigaud
Sept. 30. 1809.

The collection includes such rarities as the first editions of Copernicus, *De Revolutionibus*, of Newton's *Principia*, and of Gilbert, *De Magnete* (the latter a presentation copy of the first great English work on natural science) ; Hevelius' excessively rare *Machina Coelestis*, of which almost every copy was destroyed by fire ; Wright's translation of Stevin's *Haven-Finding Art*, a revolutionary book in the science of early navigation ; Halley's annotated copy of Flamsteed's Catalogue of Stars ; and very many other extremely scarce works. With the addition of the modern section, containing long runs of scientific transactions and periodicals, the sale as a whole is the most interesting of its kind which has been held for a good many years past.

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4to. Hendaye, 1899-1924

- 2 ACADEMIE ROYALE DES SCIENCES. Histoire, avec les Mémoires de Mathématique et de Physique, 1699-1790, 95 vol. and 14 vol. of Indexes, *plates, calf*, 1702-97; Mémoires de Mathématique et de Physique, 2 vol. in one, *plates, calf*, 1692-93; Mémoires de l'Académie . . . Tome IX, *calf*, 1730; Mémoires de Mathématique et de Physique, vol. I-XI, *plates, calf*, 1750-86; Mémoires de l'Institut National des Sciences et Arts. Sciences Mathématiques et Physiques, 6 vol., *plates, calf*, 1798-1806; Mémoires de la Classe des Sciences Mathématiques et Physiques, 8 vol., *plates, calf*, 1806-18; Mémoires de l'Institut . . . Sciences Morales et Politiques, 5 vol., *boards, uncut*, 1796-1804; Mémoires . . . Littérature et Beaux Art, 5 vol., *boards, uncut*, 1798-1804; Mémoires présentés à l'Institut par Divers Savans. Sciences Mathématiques et Physiques, 2 vol., *plates, boards, uncut*, 1805-11; Rapports et Discussions sur les Ouvrages admis au Concours pour les Prix décennaux, *boards, uncut*, 1810; Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences de l'Institut, vol. I-XXIV, *plates, a few coloured, vol. 1-13 calf, remainder half calf*, 1818-54; Mémoires présentés par Divers Savans à l'Académie, vol. I-VI, IX and X, *plates, a few coloured, 5 vol. calf, 3 vol. half calf*, 1827-48
4to. (181)

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- 4 Albategnius. De scientia stellarum liber, *diagrams, vellum, Bononiae*, 1645—Luyts (Jo.) Astronomica institutio, *frontispiece, engraved and woodcut diagrams, old calf (back broken) Trajecti ad Rhenum*, 1692, etc. 4to. (6)
- 5 Alfonso X, of Castile. Libros del Saber de Astronomia, copiladas y comentados por Don Manuel Rico y Sinobas, 3 vol., *plates, boards, uncut* folio. Madrid, 1863-64
- 6 Angelus de Aichach (Jo.) Astrolabium planum in tabulis ascēdens : cōtinens qualibet hora atque minuto equationes domorum celi, numerous woodcuts, somewhat wormed and stained, old calf (rubbed) Venice. L. A. de Giunta, 1502
- B&H (In) —7 Apianus (P.) Cosmographia, woodcut diagrams (sold not subject to return for movable slips), Paris, 1553—Mela (P.) De situ orbis libri tres, *ib.*, 1557; Vetus orbis descriptio Graeci scriptoris, sub Constantio & Constante Imppp., 1628, in 1 vol., old calf (binding broken) 4to. (1)
- 8 Archimedes. Opera omnia, *frontispiece, boards, uncut, Oxford*, 1792—Veterum Mathematicorum Athenaei, Apollodori, Philonis, Bitonis, Heronis, et aliorum opera, numerous engravings, old calf, Paris, 1693—Kepler (J.) Epistolae ad Jo. Keplerum scriptae insertis ad easdem responsionibus keplerianis, *plates, vellum*, 1718; etc. folio. (5)
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studiose lector, Motus stellarum, tam fixarum,
quàm erraticarum, cum ex ueteribus, tum etiam
ex recentibus obseruationibus reſtitutos: & no-
uis inſuper ac admirabilibus hypotheſibus or-
natos. Habes etiam Tabulas expeditiſſimas, ex
quibus eoſdem ad quoduis tempus quàm facilli-
me calculare poteris. Igitur eme, lege, frueri.

De La Houſſe.

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- 134 HEVELIUS (JO.) *MACHINAE COELESTIS pars prior; Organographiam, sive Instrumentorum Astronomicorum omnium accuratam delineationem et descriptionem exhibens . . . PARS POSTERIOR RERUM URANICARUM OBSERVATIONES . . . EXHIBENS*, 2 vol., NUMEROUS PLATES, *contemporary vellum, gilt (back of vol. 2 damaged)* folio. Gedani, 1673-79

* * THE SECOND PART, PUBLISHED IN 1679, IS EXTREMELY RARE. On 26 Sept, 1679, the observatory, scientific instruments and books belonging to Hevelius were maliciously destroyed by fire, and in this fire nearly the whole issue was destroyed.

- 135 HEVELIUS (JO.) *Machinae Coelestis pars prior (only); Organographiam, sive Instrumentorum Astronomicorum omnium accuratam delineationem et descriptionem exhibens*, *numerous folding plates of astronomical instruments, old calf* folio. Gedani, 1673

* * Bound with other works by Hevelius.

- 136 Hevelius (Jo.) *Prodromus Astronomiae, exhibens . . . novas & correctiores tabulas solares . . . additus est catalogus stellarum fixarum, portrait, plates and diagrams, contemporary vellum, Gedani, 1690—Johannis Hevelii Cometographia, frontispiece (coloured) and plates of diagrams, contemporary vellum, ib., 1668 folio. (2)*
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